MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT NETWORK SYSTEM



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC)
(Formerly Bureau of Health)
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**ADVISORY - Important Information **

2009PHADV038

TO: Health care providers and laboratory directors

FROM: Dora Anne Mills, M.D., M.P.H., Public Health Director

SUBJECT: Salmonellosis outbreak

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Salmonellosis Outbreak July 29, 2009

Six cases of an unusual type of *Salmonella* have been identified in Androscoggin, Cumberland and Sagadahoc Counties since the end of June. Four of the individuals were adults and two were children. The adults were associated with an outbreak involving 10 other individuals in a center for developmentally disabled persons. The source of the infection has not yet been identified. The epidemiologic investigation is ongoing.

Salmonellosis commonly presents with the sudden onset of diarrhea, fever, abdominal pain, headache, nausea and sometimes vomiting. Most cases of salmonellosis are self-limited. Maintaining adequate hydration is important. Antibiotics are not usually required except in infants <2 months of age, the elderly, the debilitated, those with sickle cell disease or HIV, and patients with continued/high fevers or manifestations of extra-intestinal infection. Antibiotic sensitivities should be obtained as two of the isolates identified so far in this outbreak have been resistant to ampicillin.

Individuals working in child care, food handling and health care should not resume work until they are asymptomatic. Good hand hygiene is essential as asymptomatic individuals can continue to excrete salmonella in their stools for days to weeks after recovery.

Health care providers are encouraged to perform stool cultures for bacterial pathogens on patients with acute onset of severe diarrhea or those with diarrhea and a fever. Laboratories identifying salmonella should send isolates to the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory for serotyping and PFGE (pulse field gel electrophoresis).

Providers with questions can contact the Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.